

REMARKS

In the claims, claims 21-23, 48, 62, 63, 66-68, and 71 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 20, 24, and 46 have been amended in form and not for reasons related to patentability. Specifically, claims 20, 24, and 46 have been rewritten so that they are now singly dependent claims. Claims 52, 54, and 59 have been amended to be independent claims and to recite "a chromium compound comprising one or more chromium atoms bonded to one or more fatty acid residues." Support for the amendment to claims 52, 54, and 59 can be found throughout the specification, *e.g.*, at page 4, lines 3-14.

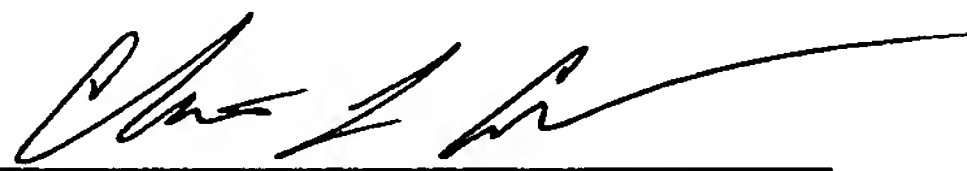
Now new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicant awaits an action on the merits.

Payment in the amount of \$5,030.00 is enclosed herewith to cover the basic national fee, examination fee, and search fee. Also included in this amount is the fee for the 49 additional claims (\$2450) plus 6 additional independent claims (\$1200). No additional fees are believed due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.

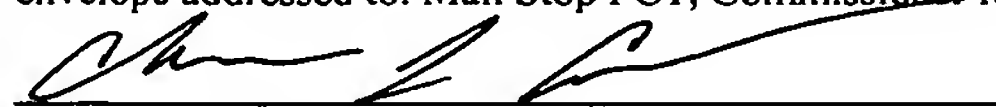


Christopher L. Curfman, JD, PhD
Registration No. 52,787

NEEDLE & ROSENBERG, P.C.
Customer Number 23859
(678) 420-9300
(678) 420-9301 (fax)

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Christopher L. Curfman

April 10, 2006
Date